

Pneumococcal Polysaccharide Vaccine (PPV23)

Available at No Cost

For all Massachusetts Residents At Risk for Pneumococcal Disease

Infection with *Streptococcus pneumoniae* results in widespread illness and death throughout the United States each year.

- Pneumococcal pneumonia
 - 175,000 hospitalized cases every year
 - Comprises up to 36% of adult community-acquired pneumonia
 - Common complication of influenza
 - Case fatality rate of 5% - 7%, and even higher in the elderly
- Pneumococcal bacteremia
 - > 50,000 cases in U.S. every year
 - Case fatality rate of 20%, up to 60% in the elderly
- Pneumococcal meningitis
 - 3,000 - 6,000 cases in the U.S. every year
 - Case fatality rate of 30%, up to 80% in the elderly
 - Neurologic sequelae common in survivors
- In some areas of the U.S. up to 40% of invasive pneumococcal isolates are resistant to penicillin, complicating treatment of pneumococcal disease.
- Only 65% of Massachusetts residents 65 years of age or older have ever received a pneumococcal vaccine; only 39% of Massachusetts residents 18 - 64 years of age with diabetes have ever received a pneumococcal vaccine.
- **Medicare Reimburses** for both the cost of influenza and PPV23 vaccines, and for their administration. Reimbursement for administration of vaccine has increased to **\$22.07** in metro-Boston, and **\$19.92** in the rest of the state, even when performed on the same day as other Medicare-covered services. For more information, go to <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/preventiveservices/2.asp> or call 617-565-4857.

To obtain state-supplied PPV23 for your patients,
Contact your MDPH Regional Office, or
The MDPH Vaccine Management Unit (617-983-6828)